

substance abuse treatment programs for prisoners, and assist the children of prisoners.

I thank Senator BIDEN, Senator SPECTER, and Senator BROWNBACK for consistently working with me to make a good bill even better. They accepted my suggestion to fix a provision that would have made it difficult for States without large urban areas to obtain grants. They also agreed with me that it made sense for victim services agencies to have a role in administering grants, for victims' needs to be specifically addressed by grants authorized by the bill, and for safeguards to be added to provisions aiming to integrate families of offenders in order to ensure that children are protected.

They also worked with me to include in the Senate's legislation an important study of the collateral consequences of criminal convictions federally and in the States, which would encourage appropriate policy to help successfully reintegrate released offenders into society. I am disappointed that partisan and unprincipled objections prevented this study, which is very important but in no way provocative, from being a part of the final bill. I am glad to report, though, that this important study was passed into law in December as part of the Court Security Improvement Act of 2007. I am similarly glad that we are moving now to pass the best version of the Second Chance Act that we can.

I thank the Vermont Department of Corrections and the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services for helping me to identify important improvements and to make this bill better for the people of Vermont and the people of America. The Vermont Department of Corrections and many others in Vermont strongly support the Second Chance Act, which gives me confidence that this legislation we pass today represents an important step in making our country safer.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1593) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, Today, I rise to congratulate my colleagues on the passage of the Second Chance Act, a bill that we have been working on for over 4 years. I am pleased to join with Senators BIDEN and SPECTER and Chairman LEAHY in supporting the passage of this bill. I, like my colleagues, have worked long and hard on this bipartisan legislation that is supported by over 200 bicameral and bipartisan organizations.

I truly believe that with this bill, we have an incredible opportunity to reshape the way in which our Nation fights crime, addresses poverty, and

provides for safer communities. Indeed, we have all seen the statistic. Over 650,000 individuals will be released from our Federal and State prisons, and 9 million are released from jails. Approximately two out of every three individuals released from prison or jail commit more crimes and will be re-arrested within 3 years of release, placing increasing financial burdens on our States and decreasing public safety.

This is unacceptable and must be addressed. Recidivism is costly, in both personal and financial terms. Consider: the American taxpayers spent approximately \$9 billion per year on corrections in 1982, and in 2002—nearly two decades later—taxpayers spent \$60 billion.

In addition to the astronomical costs of recidivism, the Nation's prison population is projected to continue to grow over the next 5 years by an additional 13 percent. According to "Public Safety, Public Spending: Forecasting America's Prison Population 2007–2017", State and Federal prison populations are expected to add approximately 192,000 persons at a cost of \$27.5 billion between 2007 and 2011.

If that is not astonishing enough, State spending on corrections has risen faster over 20 years than spending on nearly any other State budget item—increasing from \$9 billion to \$41 billion a year. The average annual operating cost per State inmate in 2001 was \$22,650, or \$62.05 per day. Among facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, it was \$22,632 per inmate, or \$62.01 per day. These figures do not include the cost of arrest and prosecution, nor do they take into account the cost to victims.

Despite that fact that taxpayers went from spending \$9 billion per year on corrections in 1982 to \$60 billion two decades later, the failure rate of our prison system has not improved over the last 30 years.

However, my concerns with our correctional system do not stop here. Not only do we need to ensure that our communities are safer, that the money spent on corrections result in drastically lower recidivism rates, but we must also look at the cost to the children of incarcerated individuals. A recent study found that children of prisoners are five times as likely to be incarcerated later in life as a child who has not had a parent incarcerated. Fifty-five percent of prisoners have children under the age of 18 and, tragically, more than 7 million children can claim a parent in prison, in jail, under parole, or under probation supervision.

Additionally, some incarcerated parents owe more than \$20,000 in child support debt upon their release. Parents play a vital role in the lives of their children—and the role of incarcerated parents is no different. The children of individuals in our prison system often depend upon their incarcerated parent, at least in part, for financial support, and look to that parent for guidance in

many aspects of their lives. Failing to address this very important facet of the family structure within the prison population could be contributing to the deterioration of families.

We must stop subsidizing programs that do not work and that lead, in turn, to negative behavior less safety, more crime, and more money wasted.

The Second Chance Act of 2007, co-authored by Senator BIDEN, Ranking Member SPECTER, Chairman LEAHY, and myself, as well as our counterparts in the House of Representatives, is a bill that will address this issue by providing grant money to States through the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor to encourage the creation of innovative programs geared toward improving public safety, decreasing the financial burden on States and successfully reintegrating exoffenders into society.

Additionally, this bill authorizes two grant programs designed to aid non-profit organizations—faith-based and community based organizations—that provide programs to those incarcerated. As you may know, faith-based programs are very successful in reintegrating offenders into society. A 2002 study found that faith-based prison programs result in a significantly lower rate of re-arrest than vocation-based programs—16 percent versus 36 percent.

A 2003 study on Prison Fellowship Ministries' Texas InnerChange Freedom Initiative, IFI, program found that IFI graduates were 50 percent less likely to be re-arrested. The 2-year postrelease re-arrest rate among IFI postrelease graduates in Texas was 17 percent compared with 35 percent of the matched comparison group. And finally, the study found that IFI graduates were 60 percent less likely to be reincarcerated and the 2-year postrelease reincarceration rate was 8 percent of IFI graduates—8 percent—versus 20.3 percent with the matched comparison group from a nonfaith-based program.

The bill also focuses on systematic changes within the criminal justice system by encouraging more coordination between Government agencies, encourages States, and local governments to reevaluate their current statutes in order to streamline their budgets and provide for more effective transition programs for inmates, which include: education, job training, life and family skills, programs for children of incarcerated parents, as well as substance abuse treatment.

Further, I want my colleagues to know that there are real accountability measures within this bill. If grantees do not show significant progress in reducing the recidivism rates for program participants they will not be eligible to receive further funding under this act.

States have already shown that recidivism rates can be dramatically cut with innovative programs, and I am